

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MACLEAN'S MAGAZINES INTERVIEW WITH SEN. WALTER MONDALE

FOR EUR/CAN

1. SENATOR WALTER MONDALE WAS RECENTLY INTERVIEWED BY PETER NEWMAN, EDITOR IN CHIEF OF MACLEAN'S MAGAZINE, THE BI-WEEKLY CANADIAN NATIONAL NEWS MAGAZINE. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE MACLEAN'S INTERVIEW, APPEARING IN THE AUGUST 9 ISSUE, WHICH DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH US-CANADIAN RELATIONS:

1- IN CANADA WE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR ATTITUDE THAT THE AMERICAN WAY SHOULD BE THE CAUSE OF ALL MANKIND - YOUR IMPULSE TO IMPOSE THE AMERICAN IDEAL ON US.

A- I THINK THAT TOO HAS ALSO GONE THROUGH A PROFOUND CHANGE, PERHAPS FOR THE BETTER. WE ENDED WORLD WAR II WITH THE NOTION THAT SOMEHOW OUR POWER TO INFLUENCE INTERNATIONAL EVENTS WAS UNLIMITED, THAT OUR WISDOM TO KNOW WHAT WAS BEST WAS EITHER AT HAND OR COULD SHORTLY BE AT HAND OR OBTAINED AND THAT IF OTHER COUNTRIES KNEW WHAT WAS BEST FOR THEM THEY WOULD DO AS WE DO. I DON'T WANT TO EXAGGERATE THIS, BUT IT WAS KIND OF A NOTION THAT WE KNEW BEST WHAT SERVED THE NATIONAL NEEDS

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OF OTHER PEOPLES. THAT CERTAINLY WAS THE DULLES POLICY. OTHER

COUNTRIES WERE EITHER GOOD OR BAD; COMMUNIST OR NON-COMMUNIST. THERE WERE NO GREY AREAS. WE GAVE NO GROUND TO THE NATIONAL SENSIBILITIES OF DIFFERENT NATIONS. BUT THE CRUCIBLE OF VIETNAM TAUGHT US A VERY EXPENSIVE BUT CRUCIAL LESSON ABOUT THE LIMITS OF OUR WISDOM AND THE LIMITS OF OUR POWER - ABOUT THE NEED THAT WE HAVE TO BE UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECTFUL OF THE HISTORY, THE CULTURES, AND THE NATIONALISTIC SENSIBILITY OF OTHER SOCIETIES. IT'S A LESSON THAT OTHER WESTERN POWERS LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO AS THEIR COLONIES COLLAPSED.

Q- PROBABLY YOUR PROBLEM WITH CANADA IS THAT BECAUSE WE DON'T APPEAR THAT DIFFERENT YOU THINK WE'RE THE SAME. WE SUFFER FROM THE BARRIER OF A COMMON LANGUAGE.

A- ABSOLUTELY. BUT I HOPE A SIMILAR REALIZATION IS APPARENT TO US CONCERNING OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH CANADA AND VICE VERSA AS IT IS ELSEWHERE. THE OLD NOTION WAS THAT CANADA WAS THE NORTH OF US AND WAS TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, AND WHEN WE COUGHED YOU GOT PNEUMONIA AND THEREFORE SOMEONE SAID THAT WE'LL MATCH OUR PROBLEMS WITH YOUR RESOURCES AND SO ON. THOSE DAYS ARE OVER AND SHOULD BE. I THINK WE'D BE NAIVE NOT TO EXPECT CANADIANS TO PURSUE THEIR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS, JUST AS THE CANADIANS WOULD BE NAIVE NOT CONSIDER THAT WE WILL DO THE SAME. BUT HAVING SAID THAT, I STILL THINK THERE'S A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT WE HAVE THAT LONG BORDER BETWEEN US. YOU'RE OUR LARGEST TRADING PARTNER AND VICE VERSA. THERE'S JUST SO MUCH THAT REQUIRES US TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. NOT IN AN EMPLOYER- EMPLOYEE RELATION OR MASTER-SERVANT RELATION, BUT AS TWO RESPECTFUL NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTIES THAT MUST SIMPLY GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER. THAT INVOLVES DIALOGUE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. IT INVOLVES RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP SO THAT WE DON'T STIR UP THE KNOW-NOTHINGS IN OUR RESPECTIVE SOCIETIES. IT INVOLVES NOT EXPECTING TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE. I DON'T THINK THAT U.S. EFFORTS IN THE PAST 10 YEARS GET US A VERY HIGH GRADE. WE'RE STARTING TO DO A LITTLE BETTER. FOR EXAMPLE, I THINK TOM ENDERS IS A FIRST-RATE CHOICE AS OUR NEW CANADIAN AMBASSADOR. I HOPE THAT WE'RE GETTING MORE UNDERSTANDING, THAT THE DIALOGUE IS INTENSIFYING AND AT A HIGHER LEVEL.

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Q- WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE IN COMMON?

A- PRESERVATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL. HOW CAN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES, CANADA, AND THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ETC., THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY MAKE IT WORK? HOW CAN WE MAKE THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM SEEM MORE ATTRACTIVE TO OTHER NATIONS, NOT TO FORCE IT DOWN THEIR

THROATS BUT TO PROVIDE THE EXAMPLE THAT MAKES US ATTRACTIVE? IF WE'RE TO AVOID THE HOLOCAUST, WE MUST PERPETUATE WHAT WALTER LIPPMAN CALLED THE WESTERN TRADITIONS OF CIVILITY. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US DOING MORE TOGETHER, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE NUTRITION AND THE HUNGER FIELD. WE'RE BOTH VERY IMPRESSIVE PRODUCERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. IT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU PEOPLE ARE VERY GOOD AT AND WE'RE VERY GOOD AT. MAYBE WE COULD TAKE THE LEAD MORE THAN WE DO NOW INTERNATIONALLY IN THAT FIELD. YOU HAVE A VERY HIGH TECHNOLOGY, WE HAVE A HIGH TECHNOLOGY. I'D LIKE TO SEE THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA RAISING MORE HELL ABOUT THESE HIGHLY DANGEROUS NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. THAT CERTAINLY IS A CENTRAL ISSUE, AND WHILE WE MAY BE SAYING THINGS PRIVATELY IT'S NOT COMING ACROSS PUBLICLY.

Q- WHAT ABOUT THE PEDDLING OF ARMS?

A- WELL, I THINK THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEADER THERE, I REGRET TO SAY. BUT WE SHOULD STAND TOGETHER BEHIND A LONG-TERM POSITION OF TRYING TO GET THE ARMS PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD TO RESTRAIN SALES. ISSUES LIKE THAT WE SHOULD BE MORE TOGETHER ON, NOT JUST FOR OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS BUT FOR THE SAKE OF A MORE STABLE WORLD.

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